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March 22, 2017

EX PARTE NOTICE VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through
Incentive Auctions, GN Docket No. 12-268; and
Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau Seek Comment on Post-
Incentive Auction Transition Scheduling Plan, MB Docket No. 16-306

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 20, 2017, Steve Sharkey and Chris Wieczorek of T-Mobile USA, Inc.¹ ("T-Mobile"), and Davina Sashkin of Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, PLC, counsel to T-Mobile, met separately with Alison Nemeth, Acting Media Advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai; Robin Colwell, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor, Media, and Erin McGrath, Legal Advisor, Wireless, Public Safety and International, to Commissioner Michael O'Rielly; and David Grossman, Chief of Staff and Media Policy Advisor to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn.

In these meetings, T-Mobile briefed the Legal Advisors on the company's significant participation in the post-Incentive Auction transition planning process and commended the Incentive Auction Task Force ("IATF") staff for their extensive analysis and modeling of resources and actions necessary to make the post Incentive Auction broadcast transition a success. In particular, T-Mobile explained that the optimization process utilized in the Incentive Auction process will likely result in far fewer stations subject to channel changes than had been originally anticipated.²

¹ T-Mobile USA, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of T-Mobile US, Inc., a publicly-traded company.

² *Application Procedures for Broadcast Incentive Auction Scheduled to Being on March 29, 2016: Technical Formulas for Competitive Bidding*, Public Notice, AU Docket No. 14-252, GN Docket No. 12-268, WT Docket No. 12-269, DA 15-1183, at Appendices J and K (Oct. 15, 2015) (detailing optimization

T-Mobile explained that the post-Incentive Auction Transition Plan allots sufficient time to accomplish the dual policy objectives of repurposing spectrum for wireless broadband use while ensuring continued vitality of the television broadcast industry. T-Mobile reiterated that, as reflected in the record in the proceedings before the Commission and the Media Bureau, there are ample resources ready to be put into use, with more resources ready to come online as the market demand ramps up over the first 18-months of the transition. The various relief valves available to stations that encounter obstacles outside of their control were also discussed. In particular, T-Mobile noted the availability of extensions of up to six months, and commended the flexibility and creativity of the staff in contemplating alternative solutions broadcasters might avail themselves of in order to ensure timely transition – or, even, to transition more quickly, so long as the overall transition is not harmed.

Because the questions being raised in recent filings about the adequacy of the 39-month Transition Scheduling Plan seem based on the very uncertainty of the post-Auction broadcast landscape while the channel assignments remain nonpublic, T-Mobile encouraged a swift release of the Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice after the close of the forward auction to relieve the uncertainty. Moreover, T-Mobile maintained that the very lack of public facts about the universe of repacked stations and their individual requirements demonstrates why it would be imprudent for the Commission to prematurely adjust the transition timeline. The public dissemination of the channel assignment and the optimization software will provide the certainty necessary for television broadcasters to make concrete plans to meet their deadlines, and will provide the opportunity for discovery of any actual, evidence-based obstacles that require staff adjustment. The participants also discussed as premature concerns about a possible insufficiency of funds for broadcaster relocation reimbursement, noting that the Commission staff will have notice of any potential shortfall at the outset of the transition and can then work with Congress to seek additional funding, if necessary.

T-Mobile described its swift deployment of 700 MHz spectrum in the recent past and noted that the performance of this low band spectrum has exceeded the company's expectations for improving coverage for consumers in suburban and rural environments. T-Mobile affirmed its intention to deploy any 600 MHz spectrum it may obtain in the current auction with equal urgency to meet consumer demand. An orderly and prompt post-Incentive Auction Transition is imperative to permit T-Mobile to further deploy competitive, robust wireless broadband service.

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In sum, there is no basis for delaying or extending the transition for reasons of funding or resource constraints, and strong public interest reasons for ensuring that the IATF's proposed Transition Scheduling Plan is implemented in accordance with the 39-month timeline adopted by the Commission and affirmed by the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Consistent with section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed in the above-referenced dockets. Please direct any questions regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Davina S. Sashkin
Counsel for T-Mobile USA, Inc.

cc: Alison Nemeth
Robin Colwell
Erin McGrath
David Grossman